

Application No. 09/830,708
Filed: April 30, 2001
Group Art Unit: 1651

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend page 10, lines 13 - 24 to read as follows:

C¹
Suitable spectrophotometrics for use in all aspects of the present invention are portable, reflectance-based, and give accurate measurements of color characteristics such as hue angles, lightness and chroma or saturation, when the incident light of the spectrophotometer is reflected back from the stained sample to the instrument's receiver. They are commercially available. A specific example of a suitable such instrument is that marketed by X-Rite, Grand Falls, Michigan, U.S.A. as "Model CA22 Spectrophotometer". It is supplied with appropriate software so that it can be connected to a computer to give an accurate read-out of the hue angle of the stained sample under test. The spectrophotometer receives reflectances over the approximate wavelength 400-700 nm, i.e. over most of the visible light spectrum, suitably over about 20 nm intervals.

Please amend page 12, lines 5 - 13 to read as follows:

C²
A significant aspect of the preferred embodiments of the present invention is the use of a porous glass fiber membrane on which the sample is oxidized and color developed. Such a glass fiber material is essentially free from stain-producing residues, so that it presents no residues which will undergo enzymatic

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C2
oxidation so as to participate in the subsequent color developing reaction. Accordingly, background color development likely to confuse or interfere with the diagnostic tests, is effectively eliminated. Moreover, the membrane is essentially pure white in color, further reducing background "noise" against which the results are read.

Please amend page 19, lines 19 - 29 to read as follows:

C3
Figure 1 of the accompanying drawings illustrates such a container for use in the present invention, in the form of a test strip 10, of rectangular shape. The strip comprises a foam pad 1011, with a layer 12 of skin compatible adhesive (not shown) temporarily protected by a peelable release sheet 14(not shown). A first central well 16 for test purposes, of circular cross-section, extend through the foam body of the strip, and through the adhesive layer 12. A second well 18, for positive control purposes, of diamond cross-section, and a third well 20, for negative control purposes, of square cross-section, are similarly provided in the foam body of the strip 10, flanking the central well 16. The different visual shapes of the wells assist the operator in conducting the tests, by aiding the correct choice of well for its respective purposes.

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Please amend page 20, lines 21 - 32 and page 21, lines 1 - 6
to read as follows:

C4
Figures 2, 3 and 4 of the accompanying drawings
diagrammatically illustrate the spectrophotometer. It has a body
22, with electrical connection (not shown) to an appropriately
programmed computer for analysis of the results read by the
reader. A lower portion 24 is provided, hingedly connected at
26(not shown) to the body 22. The lower portion 24 is apertured
at 28. A groove 30 extend across the width of the under-surface
of the lower portion 24, projecting upwardly from the lower most
surface. The groove is closed at one side of the lower portion.
The width of the groove 30 is designed to be a precise, tight fit
over the test strip 10 shown in Figure 4. An end of test strip 10
is brought into registry with the closed end of the groove, when a
reading is to be taken, and this, combined with the fit of the
test strip 10 within the width of groove 30, provides precise
registry of the test well 16 with the beam of light to be emitted
from the body 22 of the reader, through the aperture 28. The
spectrophotometer contains appropriate detector means for picking
up reflectance signals from the sample in the well 16, and
transmitting them for analysis and read out by the computer. The
body 22 and the lower portion 24 are provided with respective
electrical contacts 32, 34 which close as a switch when the lower

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c4 portion 24 is closed to the body 22, thereby switching on the
light for taking a measurement.

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